(2) Phased release of raw jute from the Buffer Stock.

(3) Special offer for sale of raw jute by JCI to private mills having limited stock.

(4) Maximum raw jute stock control order for regulating prices.

2022. [*Transferred to the 11th August,* 1989].

Killing of four jawans in Srinagar

2023. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news reports in the Press that four CRPF jawans were killed at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir on the 13th July last as a result of crossfiring between terrorists and CRPF jawans;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any of the culprits have been arrested since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Three CRPF personnel were killed and 7 injured, when unidentified miscreants opened fire at a CRPF party in down area of Srinagar city on the evening of July, 13, 1989. CRPF personnel also returned fire.

(c) Some suspects are under interrogation.

Generation of black money

2024. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of tax assessees having income of more than one lakh of rupees was around 26,000 and those having income of more than ten lakhs of rupees was only 120;

(b) whether parallel economy generates annually rupees forty thousand crores which is more than the size of this year's Central Budget of Rs. 34,446/- crores; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to curb the parallel economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) As per the statistics maintained by the Income-tax Department, the number of assessees having taxable income of more than Rs. 1 lakh as on 31-3-88 was 1,78,637 which included 15,879 assessees having taxable income of more than Rs. 5 lakhs.

(b) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money in circulation. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in their report titled 'Aspects of Black Economy in India' have estimated the amount of black money for 1983-84 between Rs. 31,584 to 36,786 crores. The authors have, however, admitted that their estimate is based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which can be challenged.

(c) Combating tax evasion is a continuous exercise and the Government takes necessary legislative and administrative measures from time to time to curb the generation, growth and use of black money. Some of the measures taken by the Income-tax Department are systematic survey operations, search and seizure operations in appropriate cases, verification of information by Central Information Branches in a planned manner and in-depth investigation in a selected number of error-prone cases.

Recovery of Central Excise dues from M/s. ITC Limited, Calcutta

2025. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. ITC Limited has filed a writ petition in Allahabad High Court against the demand

notice issued by the Collector, Central Excise, Meerut for Rs. 80.30 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no recovery is being made by Government despite the fact that there is no directive from the Allahabad High Court to this effect;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are restraining recovery of the amount on the advise of Government Counsel; and

(d) if so, whether the same principle is applied by Government in all matters of recovery, including that from the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Decisions are taken on merits of each case. The opinion of the Government counsel is also taken into account while deciding the issues.

Recovery against M|s. ITC by Collector of Central Excise, Patna

2026. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi, vide its letter dated 30th May, 1989 has asked the Collector of Central Excise, Patna to take effective steps for the recovery against the confirmed demands from M/s ITC Ltd, Monghyr;

(b) if so, whether the Collector of Central Excise, Patna has effected recovery against the confirmed demand from M/s ITC Ltd., Monghyr; and

(c) if not, what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s ITC Ltd., had paid the amount of about Rs. 1.13 crores initially demanded from them. However they have disputed the legality of the revised demand on the same count and accordingly the Collector of Central Excise, Patna has since been asked to issue a show cause notice to the Company.

High interest rate on agricultural loans

2027. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are being charged a higher rate of interest for agricultural loan by the banks as compared to the other categories;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to cut down the interest rate on agricultural loan due to heavy losses of crops following severe floods and droughts; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the interest rates stipulated for agricultural advances are much lower than those stipulated for other categories of borrowers.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for reducing rates of interest on agricultural loans. However, it may be stated that with a view to give relief to farmers, the interest rates charged for agriculture production credit were reduced in March, 1988 for loans upto Rs. 15,000/- and the range of reduction in the interest rates on this account was